Message Text

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PASS COMMERCE FOR BIC/OIM PETER FIELD

E.O.11652: N/A TAGS: BGEN

SUBJ: COMMERCE ANTI-RECESSION EXPORT CAMPAIGN

REFS: (A) STATE A-2778; (B) PARIS 12032

- 1. LIKELIHOOD THAT FRANCE COULD AND WOULD ABSORB SIGNIFICANTLY MORE US EXPORTS FROM RECESSION-HIT INDUSTRIES WILL OBVIOUSLY DEPEND ON STATE OF FRENCH MARKET FOR PRODUCTS CONCERNED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT FACT THAT FRANCE IS ALSO UNDERGOING RECESSION WITH NEARLY 5 UNEMPLOYED, WHOLESALE INVENTORIES HIGH, AND MOST FRENCH MANUFACTURERS OPERATING BELOW CAPACITY. CHEAP DOLLAR (IF THIS PERSISTS) AND PRESUMED WILLINGNESS OF INFLATION-HIT US EXPORTERS TO OFFER FAST DELIVERY AT BARGAIN PRICES WILL HELP BUT FRENCH MARKET GENERALLY FOR BOTH CAPITAL AND CONSUMER GOODS IS CURRENTLY SOFT AND NOT EXPECTED TO REVIVE MUCH BEFORE YEAR-END.
- 2. WHILE THIS MAY PROVIDE GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO LURE NTE FIRMS INTO EXPORT MARKET, REAL ANSWER IN SHORT TERM SEEMS TO US TO LIE IN MORE AGGRESSIVE SALESMANSHIP BY OTM FIRMS ALREADY PRESENT IN FRENCH MARKET. BY THE TIME NTE FIRMS FIND REPRESENTATION AND BEGIN TO GENERATE ORDERS, PRESENT SITUATION MAY WELL BE REVERSED AND THEY WOULD BE TEMPTED TO REDIRECT THEIR ATTENTION HOMEWARD WITH COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IMPACT ON OUR CREDIBILITY HERE. BEST COURSE FOR NTE FIRMS IN MEETING IMMEDIATE PROBLEM UNCLASSIFIED

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MIGHT BE TO WORK THROUGH COMBINATION EXPORT HOUSES.

3. WITH REGARD TO OTM FIRMS THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS IN WHICH USG FACILITIES IN FRANCE CAN BE USED TO SUPPLEMENT AND SUPPORT THEIR OWN ENHANCED MARKETING EFFORT.
BROADLY SPEAKING WE CAN DO MORE EFFECTIVE JOB ON PRODUCTS FITTING OUR FY76 CCP CAMPAIGN THEMES BECAUSE SUPPORTING EVENTS ARE ALREADY SCHEDULED AND WE HAVE BETTER FIX ON FRENCH IMPORTING UNIVERSE; BUT LISTING BELOW APPLIES IN SOME MEASURE TO ALL DEPRESSED-INDUSTRY PRODUCT LINES:

A) WE CAN INCLUDE THEM IN REGULAR PTC SHOWS ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR FY76. FOLLOWING LINES ON DIS-TRESSED LIST COULD BE EMCOMPASSED WITHIN AGREED THEMES:

- RADIO AND TV RECEIVERS
- ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS
- REFRIGERATION MACHINERY
- LIGHTING FIXTURES
- PLUMBING AND HEATING SUPPLIES
- VALVES AND PIPE FITTINGS
- PUMPS AND COMPRESSORS
- ALL HOUSEWARES AND HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES

B) CONSUMER GOODS LINES OUTSIDE PTC THEMES COULD BE FEATURED IN PLANNED IN-STORE PROMOTIONS IF STORES CAN BE PERSUADED TO AGREE.

C) DISTRIBUTORS COULD MOUNT BSP'S AT PTC ON ANY OR ALL DISTRESSED LINES, WHETHER OR NOT THEY FIT REGULAR SHOW THEMES.

D) WE CAN IDENTIFY FRENCH TRADE SHOWS IN FY76 COVERING VIRTUALLY ALL DISTRESSED LINES AND COULD GIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, IF NEEDED, TO EXHIBITORS USING THESE SHOWS.

E) AT SOME SACRIFICE TO OUR REGULAR CAMPAIGNS WE COULD CONDUCT CALLS OR CIRCULAR LETTER PTO SOLICITATIONS ON MAJOR END-USERS OF SELECTED DISTRESSED LINES PRO-UNCLASSIFIED

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VIDED WE ARE SUPPLIED WITH AMPLE PRODUCT LITERATURE AND ARE SUPPORTED BY LOCAL DISTRIBUTORS. WE COULD ENVISAGE MINI-CAMPAIGNS OF THIS TYPE FOR SUCH CATEGORIES AS ELECTRICAL TESTING EQUIPMENT, CHEMICAL PROCESSING MACHINERY, METAL STAMPINGS, MACHINE TOOLS AND TEXTILE MACHINERY

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- F) WE ARE PREPARED TO SERVE AS CATALYST IN MOUNTING LOCALLY-RECRUITED OFF-SITE FARM MACHINERY SHOW IF DISTRIBUTORS WILL COOPERATE.
- G) WE WILL MAKE GENEROUS USE OF OUR NEWSLETTER TO REPORT ON NEW PRODUCTS AVAILABLE IN DISTRESSED CATEGORIES.
- H) WE COULD EXPAND OUR FOREIGN BUYERS PROGRAM BEYOND OUR PRESENT CAMPAIGN PLANS TO THE EXTENT THAT THERE ARE SUITABLE US EVENTS COVERING RECESSION-HIT PRODUCTS.
- 4. ALL FOREGOING SPECIAL ACTIVITIES BY EMBASSY, PTC AND CONSTITUENT POSTS PRESUPPOSE ENTHUSIASTIC INITIATIVE BY RECESSION-HIT US EXPORTERS AND THEIR FRENCH DISTRIBUTORS. WE DO NOT HAVE RESOURCES TO CAJOLE US FIRMS INTO ACCEPTING OUR HELP. RECESSION-HIT EXPORTERS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DEVOTE THEIR OWN RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT ATTENTION TO THESE ACTIVITIES AND TO OFFER SPECIAL PRICE AND DELIVERY ENDUCEMENTS TO THEIR DISTRIBUTORS OR AGENTS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT GETTING EXPORTERS INTO RIGHT FRAME OF MIND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR HELP WILL REQUIRE HEAVY SELLING JOB BY BIC AND OFO, BUT WITHOUT THIS WE SEE NO PROSPECT OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON ALREADY SLUGGISH AND TROUBLED FRENCH MARKET. RUSH

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